AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for initializing a push-to-talk call over a wireless communication network, comprising:

receiving a push-to-talk initialization request in an initiating wireless communication device;

sending a call message from the initiating wireless communication device to a uniquely identified recipient, wherein the call message is sent in a first control channel over ~~a~~ the wireless communication network;

receiving a connection status message in the initiating wireless communication device, in response to the call message, wherein the connection status message is received in a second control channel over ~~a~~ the wireless communication network;

opening an audio channel on the initiating wireless communication device responsive to the connection status message;

activating a microphone on the initiating wireless communication device responsive to the connection status message;

receiving audio via the activated microphone;

storing the received audio in a buffer on the initiating wireless communication device.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless communication network is a code division multiple access network.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the first control channel is a reverse enhanced access channel.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the second control channel is a forward common control channel.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim1, further comprising indicating to a user that the initiating wireless communication device is ready to receive audio via the activated microphone. ~~:~~

~~opening the audio channel on the initiating wireless communication device~~

~~activating the microphone on the initiating wireless communication device;~~

~~receiving audio via the microphone; and~~

~~storing the received audio in a buffer.~~

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~5~~, further comprising:

receiving a channel assignment message corresponding to the push-to-talk request, the channel assignment message identifying a traffic channel; and

sending the stored audio over the traffic channel.

7. (Currently amended) A system for initializing a push-to-talk call over a wireless communication network, comprising:

a requesting handset configured for over the air communication in ~~a~~ the wireless communication network;

a base station configured to communicate over the air with the requesting handset~~, wherein the requesting handset sends~~ a push-to-talk call request to the base station in a first control channel; ~~and receives~~

a responsive connection status message from the base station in a second control channel;

an audio channel in the requesting handset, the audio channel configured to activate upon receiving the responsive connection status message;

a data storage area in the requesting handset, the data storage area configured to buffer audio received via the audio channel upon

receiving the responsive connection status message and until a traffic channel is established.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the wireless communication network is a code division multiple access network.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the first control channel is a reverse enhanced access channel.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the second control channel is a forward common control channel.

11. (Currently amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the requesting handset is further configured to indicate to a user that the requesting handset is ready to receive audio input via the activated audio channel. ~~comprises:~~

~~an audio channel; and~~

~~a data storage area, wherein the requesting handset activates the audio channel upon receiving the responsive connection status message and buffers audio received via the audio channel in the data storage area until a traffic channel is established.~~